

for presiding over the Evans-Novak political forum next week.

The headline in the New York Times called him a conservative columnist. I guess he did end up as pretty conservative—this friend and ardent admirer of Jack and Robert Kennedy, the son of a liberal Democratic family on the conservative Philadelphia mainline who, at the behest of his New Deal father, delivered a speech—in Marine uniform—for Franklin Roosevelt in 1944.

When Kay Winton told her liberal father she had fallen in love with Rowly, she concluded by saying: and, daddy, he's a liberal! Nearly half a century later, her husband was singing the praises of Ronald Reagan and Newt Gingrich.

Still I can think of words more descriptive of the whole man than conservative: reporter, patriot, mentor, competitor, even—and here using a description by his wife of 51 years—rascal.

He rejoiced in his rascality and loved to talk about it. About the time as Marine recruit at Parris Island, when he spotted an old buddy from the Kent School who was a Marine lieutenant. They decided to have a drink together, but where could an officer and an enlisted man go together? To go to the Officers Club, his friend dressed Rowly as an officer. All went well until Rowly spotted how own commanding officer at the bar. They tiptoed out to prevent their Marine careers from ending in court martial.

Most of us know the story of how Rowly, the lowest of the low in the Washington Bureau of the Associated Press, posted as bureau chief to interview Katherine for a job—at 8 o'clock in the evening, no less.

And Rowly said the crowning achievement of his life came just a few years ago when he and his friend Woody Redmond skated the frozen Potomac River before being halted—and nearly arrested—by police.

The skating incident also reflected one of the fiercest competitive spirits any of us have ever seen—playing competitive ice hockey until he was 40, winning squash tournament after squash tournament at the Metropolitan Club into his 70's and ranked nationally among senior squash players, playing tennis or bridge or poker, shooting dice with friends for lunch at the Metropolitan Club, just trying to drive from Georgetown to Culpepper without hitting a stoplight. He could recite nearly every shot of the semi-final match in the National Father-and Son Tennis Tournament when he was 14 years old.

He was a happy warrior, a delight at any dinner party, playing the piano, stirring up trouble. But beneath these high spirits burned the heart of a patriot—the Yale freshman who stood in line on December 8, 1941 to enlist in the Marine Corps, exchanging the privileged life he had always known for combat at Guadalcanal.

His fierce passion for the security of his country was the prism through which all his journalism passed. It guided his greatest journalistic achievements—his exposé of Soviet arms control cheating in the 1970's that the U.S. Government sought to hide, his informed forecasts of the fall of the communist empire in Czechoslovakia and Poland.

That passion embroiled Rowly in controversy when he refused to accept the Government cover-up of the bombing of the *U.S.S. Liberty* in the Six-day War. He could not let the reasons for the death of fellow Americans serving their country go unnoticed.

Rowland Evans was no deskbound columnist. In the tradition of his great friends the Alsop brothers, he went everywhere—and anywhere—for a story: China, Southeast Asia, all over Eastern Europe, the Mideast, the Indian subcontinent. He skirted death in

incidents in Vietnam and the Six-day War. He could not report on the independence movement in the Baltics without actually going to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. When his father died, Rowly was reporting in Iraq—awaiting a rare interview with Saddam Hussein. He flew to Philadelphia for the funeral, then back to Baghdad—and that interview with the Iraqi dictator.

But the heart of his reporting was here in Washington. His sources were legion: the mighty of Washington and obscure staffers, CIA spooks and mysterious émigrés. All were interrogated in the dining room of the Metropolitan Club.

In the last week, I have been contacted by so many younger people in the news business who told me how Rowly counseled them, gave them a helping hand. His was what Stew Alsop called the reporter's trade and he sought to pass it along to a new generation.

If I may close with a strictly personal note. On the morning of Monday, December 17, 1963, returning to the Washington Bureau of the Wall Street Journal after my honeymoon, I found a batch of notes from a reporter form the New York Herald-Tribune whom I barely knew: Rowland Evans. When I called him, he asked me for lunch—not at the Metropolitan Club by the way but at Blackie's House of Beef. It was a lunch that changed my life and made my career.

The upshot was the Evans-Novak column which lasted for 30 years until his retirement and a partnership of 38 years that continued in television and our newsletter. We had a thousand shouting arguments, often at the top of our voices. We never fought about money, hardly ever about ideology but frequently about what story to tell and how to tell it.

Rowland Evans was the life of every party, but he ceased being a society boy long ago in the crucible of combat as a Marine sergeant in the Solomon Islands. He was a tough Marine, an unabashed patriot, a great journalist and a faithful friend and colleague. Rest in peace, Rowly.

#### CHAMPVA FOR LIFE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am proud to be the author of the CHAMPVA for Life Act of 2001.

Last year, Congress finally enacted legislation to restore the promise of providing lifetime health care to our military retirees. TRICARE for Life, as it is known, is long overdue. However, an equally worthy group has been left out of the reform.

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, CHAMPVA, provides health care coverage to several categories of individuals who have paid dearly for that right: dependents of veterans who have been rated by VA as having a total and permanent disability; survivors of veterans who died from VA-rated service-connected conditions; and survivors of servicemembers who died in the line of duty. As such, CHAMPVA provides a measure of security to a group of persons who have indisputably given a great deal to our country.

CHAMPVA is intended to serve as a safety net for dependents and survivors of severely disabled veterans who, because of their disabilities, were unable to provide health insurance benefits to their families through employment. The safety net mission of CHAMPVA

has not changed, but this law must change, since under current law, CHAMPVA beneficiaries lose their eligibility for coverage when they turn 65.

The TRICARE for Life law passed last year specifically allows military retirees and their dependents to remain in the TRICARE program after they turn age 65, as long as they are enrolled with Part B of Medicare. TRICARE will cover those expenses not covered under Medicare. It also provides for retail and mail-order pharmaceutical coverage for Medicare-eligible military retirees.

There is no doubt that TRICARE and CHAMPVA beneficiaries should retain similar eligibility for health care coverage. What TRICARE does for the families of military retirees should be no less readily available to the survivors and dependents of severely disabled veterans and those service-members who died in the line of duty. Simple justice and equity demand this. Just last week, I received a letter from a constituent from Nutter Fort, WV, that hammered home this very point. She asked in her letter, "Why aren't the CHAMPVA beneficiaries offered the same program recently approved for those on TRICARE who are now eligible for Medicare?"

Indeed, title 38 of the United States Code reflects this view by requiring the Secretary to provide medical care "in the same or similar manner and subject to the same or similar limitations as medical care furnished to certain dependents and survivors of active duty and retired members of the Armed Forces." And up until enactment of the new, highly valued TRICARE for Life provisions just last fall, the two programs were, indeed, similar.

An argument could be made that since TRICARE was modified to remove the limitation on eligibility, legislation is not necessary to equate the two programs. However, VA has not yet embraced CHAMPVA for Life.

The bill simply clarifies that the CHAMPVA and TRICARE programs should continue to operate in a similar manner, with similar eligibility. This would mean that Medicare-eligible CHAMPVA beneficiaries who enroll in Part B of Medicare would retain secondary CHAMPVA coverage, and beneficiaries would receive the same pharmacy benefit as CHAMPVA beneficiaries who are under age 65.

The failure of Congress to enact prescription drug coverage under Medicare only underscores the need to enact this CHAMPVA reform. However serious a gap it was for Medicare to lack prescription drug benefit in 1965, incredible advances in drug therapy, combined with staggering inflation in prescription drug costs, have made the need for affordable prescription drug coverage even more important today. CHAMPVA beneficiaries who have sacrificed so much already should not be forced to sacrifice anything more to purchase needed prescription drugs.

Nothing brings this closer to home for me than another letter I received

recently, this one from a Korean War veteran and his wife in Alderson, WV. They were upset to learn that when the wife turned 65, she lost all of her CHAMPVA benefits. As a result, she was forced to pay more than \$300 per month for her diabetes and heart medications, in addition to all the other new costs for care not covered by Medicare. With Social Security and disability compensation as their only income, this couple is struggling to absorb this enormous new expense in their modest budget. The husband, a 100-percent disabled veteran, wrote poignantly to me, "... it would help us out so much if CHAMPVA would continue to cover my wife's medical care."

In closing, I thank the Gold Star Wives Association for their dedication and for bringing this issue to my attention. We must never forget that the costs of military service are borne not only by the servicemember alone, but by their families as well.

I hope the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will expedite passage of this bill out of committee. CHAMPVA beneficiaries are depending upon it.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, March 27, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,736,074,141,495.08, five trillion, seven hundred thirty-six billion, seventy-four million, one hundred forty-one thousand, four hundred ninety-five dollars and eight cents.

One year ago, March 27, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,731,796,000,000, five trillion, seven hundred thirty-one billion, seven hundred ninety-six million.

Five years ago, March 27, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,069,500,000,000, five trillion, sixty-nine billion, five hundred million.

Ten years ago, March 27, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,460,809,000,000, three trillion, four hundred sixty billion, eight hundred nine million.

Fifteen years ago, March 27, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$1,981,848,000,000, one trillion, nine hundred eighty-one billion, eight hundred forty-eight million, which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,754,226,141,495.08, three trillion, seven hundred fifty-four billion, two hundred twenty-six million, one hundred forty-one thousand, four hundred ninety-five dollars and eight cents, during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMADA FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the residents of Armada and the Armada Free Public Library on the occasion of its one-hundredth anniversary. Residents in my home State of Michigan will be gathering this Sunday, April 1, 2001 to celebrate this important milestone.

The Armada Free Public Library is a dynamic community institution, with

a proud tradition of serving the needs of all residents of the growing community in which it is located. This commitment to community service is manifested in the library's efforts to provide access to over 25,000 books and many periodicals, as well as access the World Wide Web. In addition, the Armada Free Public Library serves as a barrier-free gathering place for community and civic groups.

The Armada Free Public Library was established on April 1, 1901. It was on this day that village residents approved a mill tax to fund the library by a resounding vote of 144 to 48. The library opened on August 10th of the same year with 87 books on its shelves.

In the ensuing years, the library grew from these humble origins to continue serving the needs of area residents. In particular, the early library emphasized its ability to serve as a meeting place for conferences, clubs and children located in this bustling farming community. Given its central role in the community, it is only natural that as Armada grew the Free Public Library needed to grow with it. Were it not for the efforts of philanthropists and concerned voters, the Armada Free Public Library may not have reached this historic anniversary. A grant provided by the Carnegie's enabled the library to move into a new facility in 1915, and subsequent efforts by local voters and philanthropists, such as the estate of the late Elizabeth Pomeroy, ensured both the growth of the library and its continued economic viability.

Mr. President, I have mentioned only a small portion of the dynamic history of the Armada Free Public Library and the many ways in which the library has remained committed to this community. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the Armada Free Public Library for its service to the people of Armada and the State of Michigan.●

##### RECOGNITION OF ROSARY HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Rosary High School's outstanding accomplishments and to congratulate them on their 40th anniversary and rededication which will take place on April 29, 2001.

Originally Archbishop Joseph Ritter dedicated the building for Rosary High School in St. Louis on April 29, 1962. Since its first graduating class in 1965, Rosary High school has proudly graduated 8,000 students. Over the years its students have done an outstanding job of serving the St. Louis community by completing more than 100 hours of community service per student.

Rosary High School continues to maintain an excellent academic record with average ACT scores that are above the state and national norms. Fifty percent of their graduating class has received scholarships to college.

Rosary High School has excelled in their athletic programs. Over the past 40 years they have repeatedly won the State championship in soccer, as well

as championships in volleyball and basketball.

Rosary High School is an exemplary High School. The School, faculty, and students are an asset to the St. Louis community. It is my sincerest hope that the next forty years are as successful as the last.●

##### TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA MULROY

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a distinguished Nevadan, a good person and a good friend, Patricia Mulroy. Pat will be receiving the National Jewish Medical and Research Center's Humanitarian Award on April 28, 2001.

The Humanitarian Award honors people who have made significant civic and charitable contributions, people who have chosen to devote their lives to making their communities better places to live.

Pat first moved to Las Vegas in 1974, and began making her mark almost as soon as she arrived as a young student at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas by being admitted to Phi Kappa Phi and being listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

After college, Pat began her career in public service by working in the Clark County Manager's Office. She was appointed the county's first Justice Court Administrator in 1984, and later was appointed General Manager of the Las Vegas Valley Water District.

Those of us who live in the southwestern United States know how important, and scarce, water is to our States. Pat took over as General Manager of the Water District during one of the most difficult periods in Southern Nevada's water history, a year when the community began growing at the rate of 3000 to 5000 residents per month, a trend which has only increased. In response, in 1991, Pat was appointed the first General Manager for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, an agency created by the state legislature to oversee competing governmental interest in water.

Since then, Pat has become known nationally as an expert on water issues. She is a member of the American Water Works Association and currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. In 1992 she helped found and was the original chairman of the Western Urban Water Coalition. She is also a member of the Colorado River Water Users Association and has served on its Board of Directors. She serves on the Desert Research Institute Research Foundation Board of Trustees and received the University and Community College System of Nevada Board of Regents' 1999 Distinguished Nevadan Award.

Those of us who have had the privilege of knowing Pat personally know her as more than a public advocate and expert on water issues. We also know her as a loving wife to her husband Robert, a devoted mother of two children, Ryan and Kelley, and a leader